

B-3260 - B-3263
920-900 William St. (West side)
Baltimore, Md.
Private access

1844-1851

This side of William St. is improved by two long rows of two story plus attic, two bay wide brick houses with gable roofs, all of which are covered with formstone. 912 William St. has been enlarged and now is three stories in height with a shed roof. The first floor area of 920 William St. serves as a corner grocery. 914-920 William St. were built by John S. Gittings as part of his development of the southern section of this block; 900-912 William St. were probably built by William Harman, a local house carpenter, for Sophia Read, who owned the property.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

B-3263
MAGI 0432632404

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

900-910 William St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
___ STRUCTURE
___ SITE
___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
___ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
___ IN PROCESS
___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
___ UNOCCUPIED
___ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE
___ COMMERCIAL
___ EDUCATIONAL
___ ENTERTAINMENT
___ GOVERNMENT
___ INDUSTRIAL
___ MILITARY
___ MUSEUM
___ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ RELIGIOUS
___ SCIENTIFIC
___ TRANSPORTATION
___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office Room 601

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

B-3263

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This row of two story plus attic brick houses with gable roofs was built as a unit in the 1840's and formed part of the original group of such houses that extended along this side of William St. The houses have been covered with formstone.

The houses are two and a half stories in height, 14' wide (except for 900 which is 18' wide), and occupy lots 80' deep. Each house is two rooms deep and originally had a one story high, two bay deep rear addition. 900 William St. currently has a two story high, four bay deep rear addition with an added, one bay deep later section. 902 and 910 William have added two story sections on the first bay of the rear addition and 910 has an extra one story high, one bay deep frame addition. 904 William has a two story high, two bay deep addition; 906 has an added one bay wide two story section on the first bay of the addition; and 908 has a two story high, two bay deep addition with an added one story high, one bay deep section. The houses were probably constructed in running bond but their facades have been covered with formstone. Each house has a double rectangular chimney located along the north end of both its front and rear roof gables, except for 900 William which has a triple hooded chimney located along the north side of its rear gable and 902 William, which has its chimneys located along its south side. Each house originally also had a rear end chimney, located at the west end of the kitchen addition. These still exist at 906, 908, and 910 William St. The low-pitched gable roof has a continuous, two-tier brick cornice which extends across the facade, but is hidden by the formstone.

Because of the formstone covering the original treatment of the lintels and sills cannot be determined. It appears, however, that the lintels were flat (wood or splayed brick). A number of the houses have brick header sills, but these may be contemporary with the formstone covering. The first and second floor window openings of all the houses are filled with 1/1 double hung sash; the attic story windows of 902, 904, 908, and 910 are filled with 1/1 sash also. At 906 the attic story windows are filled with a pair of single pane casement windows and at 900 the attic windows are filled with 3/3 sash. The attic story windows of 900 William St., on the Warren Ave. facade, are particularly interesting. There are three tall, narrow openings. The center window is filled with 4/4 double hung sash and the flanking side windows are filled with 2/2 horizontally placed, double hung sash. The Warren Ave. facade second floor windows are filled with the original 6/6 sash. The houses have a mixed array of door types, but all have narrow, rectangular single light transoms. 902, 904, and 906 William St. have late panel doors with multi-light panels set above the lower wood panels; 908 William has a modern flush door; and 910 William has a 15-light glass and panel door. 900 William has a new doorway, with a deeper transom area with four vertically set lights, above a row of dentils. The door has nine upper lights set above a lower wood panel. The houses sit on low basements, the entrances being reached by two brick or stone steps. Each house has a rectangular coal opening located beneath the first floor window.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1845-46

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William G. and Sophia C. Read

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(William H. Harmon)

This row of houses is representative of a large group of such two story plus attic houses built in the 1840's and 1850's in this central section of Federal Hill, to accomodate the growing labor force centered around the Baltimore waterfront. Although showing possible stylistic influences from Greek Revival style buildings constructed in Baltimore in the 1820's and 1830's (in the proportions of the attic windows and the chaste exterior details), the outstanding feature of these houses is their extreme simplicity of design and detailing. They are practical adaptations of a current mode of building, designed to meet the need for efficient, low-cost housing for a growing working class community. The floor plan is essentially the same as that of the two story with dormer windows type of house which generally preceded this type chronologically, the two main floors having both a front and back room separated by an enclosed, narrow, tightly winding staircase. Both front and back rooms usually have fireplaces. The kitchens were usually located in an addition built onto the rear of the house. The increase in the height of the third story (from a dormer story to an attic story) allowed the third story to be divided into two separate rooms, in place of the one open room usual with the dormer-storied houses, thus providing welcome additional, private living space.

This particular row of houses was built by Sophia Read and her husband William G. Read, on land allotted to her in the partition and division of the real estate of her father, John Eager Howard. The fact that 900 William St. was leased to William Harmon, and 904 William St. leased to his brother Samuel Harmon, local house carpenters and bricklayers, suggests that they actually built the row of houses for the Reads under some arrangement whereby they were compensated for their work by receiving two of the houses.¹ William Harmon also built the large house directly across Warren Ave. from 900 William St., at 836 William St.

Although most houses such as these were held by the builder as rental property, these were not. The Reads sold each house to an individual owner as soon as they were completed. The first owner of 908 William St. was John G. Kines, the brother of Francis Kines who lived at 905 Light St. (See under 905 Light St.)²

¹Baltimore City Land Records, Liber AWB 370, Folio 338

²Ibid, Liber AWB 369, Folio 7

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. & Eccles

DATE

4/79

STREET & NUMBER

1745 Circle Rd.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ruxton

STATE

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

LIGHT

B-3263

WARREN

906

7

AVE.

WARREN AL.

WILLIAM

E. HAMBURG

E. WHEELING

ST. E. WHEELING

ST.

ST.

COMPTON

SEE SUB PLAN

COMPTON ST.

936

936

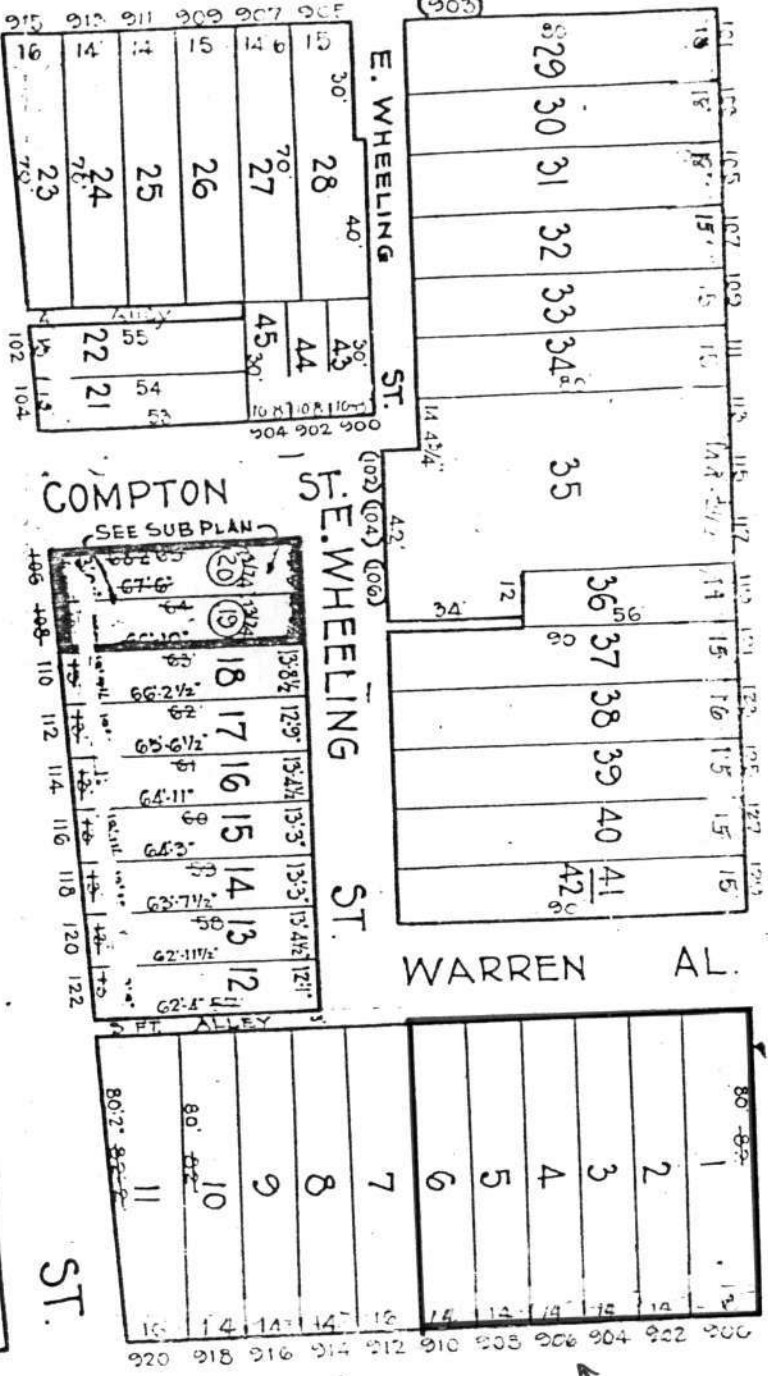
CRT.

SUNWALT

THORNS CRT.

920
937

B-3263



B-3263
900-910 William Street
Block 0919 Lots 001-006
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





B-3263

900-910 William St.

M.E.H.

4/79

East and north elevations